

Attorney's Docket
065123.0106

Serial No. 09/398,987

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Please refer to the attached sheet showing a mark-up version of the amendments to the claims.

Claims 1-9 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in response to an Election/Restriction Requirement and are subject to the filing of a divisional application.

Please cancel claims 10-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 23-39 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in response to an Election/Restriction Requirement and are subject to the filing of a divisional application.

40. (Twice Amended) A fishing apparatus for releasable engagement with and disengagement from a first fishing device and engagement with and disengagement from a second fishing device comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

the sliding loop and the sliding loop knot cooperating with each other to provide [providing] means for releasably engaging and disengaging the fishing line with the first fishing device and the second fishing device;

the fishing line having at least a first section and a second section;

the first section and the second section having respective first ends and second ends;

the first end of the first section corresponding with the first end of the fishing line with the sliding loop formed thereon;

a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section and a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and

the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

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41. (Twice Amended) A fishing apparatus for releasable engagement with and disengagement from a fishing device comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line;

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased and increased to respectively engage and disengage the fishing line and ~~the~~ [a] fishing device;

the sliding loop formed by a sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop;

the second loop formed adjacent to the first loop and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop multiple times;

[the first end of the fishing line wrapped through both the first loop and the second loop and around the central portion of the fishing line;]

the free [first] end of the fishing line drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot[;] by drawing the first loop and the second loop together with each other and the central portion of the fishing line; and

the sliding loop knot operable to slide along the central portion of the fishing line to increase and decrease the diameter of the sliding loop.

Please add the following new claims.

43. A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at a first end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the fishing apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

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the sliding loop knot operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device;

a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye; and

the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clinching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye.

44. The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 wherein the fishing line further comprises:

a first section having a first end and a second end;

a second section having a first end and a second end;

the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and

the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the second section.

45. The fishing apparatus of Claim 44 further comprising:

a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;

a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and

the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each other.

46. The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising:

the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;

a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and